



Department of Justice

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HARRISON TOWNSHIP MAN INDICTED FOR FAILING TO REGISTER AS SEXUAL OFFENDER

Moved from California to Ohio

DAYTON – A federal grand jury here today indicted Jesse Lee Walters, age 32 of Harrison Township, on one count of failure to register as a sexual offender as required by the Sexual Offender Registration and Notification Act. Walters moved to Ohio from Santa Cruz, California sometime between January and March, 2007.

Gregory G. Lockhart, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Ohio, James M. Wahlrab, United States Marshal, Southern District of Ohio, William Taylor, Supervisory Deputy United States Marshal, Dayton Office, Dave Vore, Montgomery County Sheriff, and James Borland, Huber Heights Chief of Police, announced the indictment.

Walters was convicted in May, 1997 in Santa Cruz Municipal Court in California of Lewd and Lascivious Acts with a child under the age of 14. He was sentenced to three years imprisonment and required under California law to register for life as a sexual offender.

The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office conducted a routine law enforcement check on August 21, 2007 and discovered that Walters had obtained an Ohio Driver's License in July. The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's office notified the Huber Heights Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office that an unregistered sex offender was living in the county.

Deputy U.S. Marshals Jeremy Rose and Tony Keffer arrested Walters at his residence. He has been in custody since his arrest.

If convicted, Walters faces up to ten years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine.

The Sexual Offender Registration and Notification Act is part of the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act passed by Congress in 2006. The law directs federal resources to the tasks of rounding up sex offenders and helping state and local governments catch convicted individuals who failed to register in communities where they live, work, or go to school.

"When Congress passed the Adam Walsh Act, it created a seamless web of law enforcement agency cooperation to make sure communities are safe from unregistered sex offenders who move around the country without keeping their registration up to date," Lockhart said.

Lockhart commended the investigation by deputy U.S. Marshals and Assistant U.S. Attorney Laura Clemmens, who is prosecuting the case.

An indictment is merely an accusation. All defendants are presumed innocent. It is up to the government to prove an individual is indeed guilty of the crimes charged.